



**Judith SARGENTINI MEP**

**Ambassade Egypte**

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Your Excellency,

In December 2010 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on Eritrean refugees held hostage by human traffickers in Sinai. In attachment you will find this resolution. I am sending you this letter to request your assistance.

Thousands of Eritreans are fleeing the country because of the brutal dictatorship in there country. Refugees try to reach Israel via the Sinai-desert, especially after Libya has made arrangements with Italy to send refugees back. The route through the Sinai is life threatening, because of networks of human traffickers holding refugees hostage and asking for ransom.

The situation is worsening. In the EP, we got news recently that eight young men have been killed, and dozens are missing. Young women and children are raped and injured. As refugees risk detention when they turn to police or military, they are stuck between a rock and a hard place.

As lives are at risk, I urge the Egyptian authorities to respect the human rights and the Geneva conventions on the Rights of Refugees. We expect the Egyptian authorities to act decisively and rescue refugees from the hands of traffickers and their accomplices in that region of the Sinai, and prevent it from happening again in the future.

On behalf of the Group of MEPs for a Democratic Eritrea,

Judith Sargentini